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Agenda item 97 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Angola, Australia, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Sweden, Togo and Uruguay: draft resolution

International Year for the World's Indigenous People, 1993

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without discrimination as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reiterating General Assembly resolution 45/164 of 18 December 1990, in which the Assembly proclaimed 1993 as International Year for the World's Indigenous People, with a view to strengthening international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous communities in the areas, inter alia, of human rights, the environment, development, education and health,

Recognizing the value and the diversity of cultures and the forms of social organization of the world's indigenous people,

Welcoming the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1/ as well as resolution 1992/45 of 3 March 1992 regarding the International Year for the World's Indigenous People, adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session,

Noting the need to conclude the technical meeting provided for in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 46/128 of 17 December 1991 in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 1 of the same resolution,

1. Proclaims 1993 to be the "International Year for the World's Indigenous People", with the theme of "Indigenous People - a new partnership";

2. Calls upon the United Nations system and Governments which have not yet done so to develop policies in support of the objectives and the theme of the International Year and to strengthen the institutional framework for their implementation;

3. Urges the Coordinator of the International Year to continue to solicit actively the cooperation of specialized agencies, regional commissions, financial and development institutions and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system for the promotion of the programme of activities contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/128;

4. Requests the Coordinator to reconvene from within existing resources, in the three working days preceding the eleventh session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, the technical meeting provided for in paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 46/128 with a view to concluding its deliberations and finalizing its report;

5. Stresses that governmental and intergovernmental activities undertaken within the context of the International Year and beyond, should take fully into account the development needs of indigenous people and the need for making full use of the contributions which indigenous communities can bring to sustainable national development;

6. Notes that there is a continuing need to improve the availablity and the means of dissemination of socio-economic data relating to the development needs of indigenous people and that the International Year should contribute to enhancing and to facilitating the coordination capabilities of Member States for collecting and analysing information in that area;

7. Appeals to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as organizations of indigenous people, to contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the International Year opened by the Secretary-General;

1/ Report of the United Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 to 14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26, vols. I to V).

8. Recommends to the Secretary-General that he should give all necessary assistance to the Coordinator of the International Year to permit him to carry out his tasks;

9. Recommends also that the upcoming Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights should continue to consider how issues pertinent to the International Year could be addressed within the framework of the Conference;

10. Stresses the relevance for the solution of problems faced by indigenous communities of the recommendations contained in chapter 26 of Agenda 21, in the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; 2/

11. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to ask the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, at its eleventh session, and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, at its forty-fifth session, to complete their consideration of the draft universal declaration of indigenous rights and to submit their report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fiftieth session;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the activities developed and the results achieved within the context of the International Year.

2/ Ibid., vol. III.